

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

- 1 1. A method for making a series of nanoscale microstructures comprising the steps of:
  - 2 (1) forming a block copolymer containing a plurality of first polymer blocks and a
  - 3 plurality of second polymer blocks, wherein at least said first polymer blocks are chiral
  - 4 polymer blocks exhibiting chirality, and said first and second polymer blocks are
  - 5 capable of being subject to a micro-phase separation and said first polymer blocks
  - 6 have a volume fraction ranging from 10 to 90%;
  - 7 (2) causing a microphase separation in said chiral block copolymer.
- 1 2. The method for making a series of nanoscale microstructures according to claim 1, wherein
- 2 said chiral block copolymer is poly(styrene)-poly(L-lactide) (PS-PLLA) chiral block
- 3 copolymer, said first polymer is poly(L-lactide), and said second polymer is polystyrene.
- 1 3. The method for making a series of nanoscale microstructures according to claim 1, wherein
- 2 said chiral block copolymer is poly(4-vinylpyridine)-poly(L-lactide) (P4VP-PLLA) chiral
- 3 block copolymer, said first polymer is poly(L-lactide), and said second polymer is pol(4-
- 4 vinylpyridine).
- 1 4. The method for making a series of nanoscale microstructures according to claim 1, wherein
- 2 said poly(L-lactide) has a volume fraction ranging from about 20% to about 49%.
- 1 5. The method for making a series of nanoscale microstructures according to claim 1, wherein
- 2 said nanoscale microstructures are a series of helical microstructures.
- 1 6. The method for making a series of nanoscale microstructures according to claim 1, wherein

2                   said nanoscale microstructures are a series of cylindrical microstructures each with a  
3                   hexagonal crossection.

1                   7. The method for making a series of nanoscale microstructures according to claim 2, wherein  
2                   said poly(styrene)-poly(L-lactide) (PS-PLLA) chiral block copolymer is prepared using a  
3                   polymerization process comprising the following steps:

4                   (1) mixing styrene with BPO and 4-OH-TEMPO to form 4-hydroxy-TEMPO-terminated  
5                   polystyrene; and

6                   (2) mixing said 4-hydroxy-TEMPO-terminated polystyrene with  $[(\eta_3\text{-EDBP})\text{Li}_2]_2[(\eta_3\text{-}$   
7                    $^n\text{Bu})\text{Li}(0.5\text{Et}_2\text{O})]_2$  and L-lactide in an organic solvent to form said poly(styrene)-  
8                   poly(L-lactide) chiral block copolymer.

1                   8. The method for making a series of nanoscale microstructures according to claim 7, wherein  
2                   said polymerization process is a living polymerization in which monomers are sequentially  
3                   added to a polymerization mixture.

1                   9. The method for making a series of nanoscale microstructures according to claim 1, wherein  
2                   said phase separation of said poly(styrene)-poly(L-lactide) chiral block copolymer is achieved  
3                   through crystallization.

1                   10. An object containing a series of repeating nanoscale microstructures formed in a substrate,  
2                   said object being formed using a process comprising the steps of:

3                   (1) forming a block copolymer containing a plurality of first polymer blocks and a  
4                   plurality of second polymer blocks, wherein said first polymer blocks are chiral  
5                   blocks, wherein said first polymer blocks have a volume fraction ranging from 10 to  
6                   90%;

7 (2) causing a phase separation in said block copolymer.

1 11. The method for making a series of nanoscale microstructures according to claim 11, wherein  
2 said block copolymer is a poly(styrene)-poly(L-lactide) chiral block copolymer, and said first  
3 polymer blocks are poly(L-lactide) blocks and said second polymer blocks are polystyrene  
4 blocks.

1 12. The method for making a series of nanoscale microstructures according to claim 11, wherein  
2 said block copolymer is a poly(4-vinylpyridine)-poly(L-lactide) chiral block copolymer, and  
3 said first polymer blocks are poly(L-lactide) blocks and said second polymer blocks are  
4 poly(4-vinylpyridine) blocks.

1 13. The method for making a series of nanoscale microstructures according to claim 9, wherein  
2 said poly(L-lactide) has a volume fraction ranging from about 20% to about 49%.

1 14. The method for making a series of nanoscale microstructures according to claim 11, wherein  
2 said nanoscale microstructures are a series of helical microstructures.

1 15. The method for making a series of nanoscale microstructures according to claim 11, wherein  
2 said nanoscale microstructures are a series of cylindrical microstructures each with a  
3 hexagonal crossection.

1 16. The method for making a series of nanoscale microstructures according to claim 12, wherein  
2 said poly(styrene)-poly(L-lactide) (PS-PLLA) chiral block copolymer is prepared using a  
3 polymerization process comprising the following steps:

4 (1) mixing styrene with BPO and 4-OH-TEMPO to form 4-hydroxy-TEMPO-terminated

5 polystyrene; and

6 (2) mixing said 4-hydroxy-TEMPO-terminated polystyrene with  $[(\eta_3\text{-EDBP})\text{Li}_2]_2[(\eta_3\text{-}$   
7  $^9\text{Bu})\text{Li}(0.5\text{Et}_2\text{O})]_2$  and L-lactide in an organic solvent to form said poly(styrene)-  
8 poly(L-lactide) chiral block copolymer.

1 17. The method for making a series of nanoscale microstructures according to claim 17, wherein  
2 said polymerization process is a living polymerization in which monomers are sequentially  
3 added to a polymerization mixture.

1 18. The method for making a series of nanoscale microstructures according to claim 12, wherein  
2 said phase separation of said poly(styrene)-poly(L-lactide) chiral block copolymer is achieved  
3 through crystallization.

1 19. A nanoscale process comprising the steps of:

2 (1) obtaining an object, said object contains a series of nanoscale microstructures;  
3 (2) wherein said nanoscale microstructures are formed using a process containing the  
4 following steps:

5 (A) forming a block copolymer containing a plurality of first polymer blocks and  
6 a plurality of second polymer blocks, wherein said first polymer blocks are  
7 chiral blocks, wherein said first polymer blocks have a volume fraction ranging  
8 from 20 to 49%;

9 (B) causing a phase separation in said block copolymer.

1 20. The nanoscale process according to claim 19, wherein said block copolymer is a

2 poly(styrene)-poly(L-lactide) chiral block copolymer, and said first polymer blocks are  
3 poly(L-lactide) blocks and said second polymer blocks are polystyrene blocks.